

Message

From: Opalski, Dan [Opalski.Dan@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/14/2020 5:01:30 PM
To: Baca, Andrew [Baca.Andrew@epa.gov]
CC: Holsman, Marianne [Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Pebble mine technical meeting questions

Adding in Andrew for his awareness....

From: Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; Hladick, Christopher <hladick.christopher@epa.gov>; Pirzadeh, Michelle <Pirzadeh.Michelle@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Pebble mine technical meeting questions

For awareness below...

Marianne

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From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>; Fuld, John <Fuld.John@epa.gov>; Klein, Melissa <Klein.Melissa@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; Goerke, Ariadne <Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Pebble mine technical meeting questions

Hello,

We have received the below inquiry, with a deadline of 11:30 est tomorrow.

Please let me know how you all would like to respond.

Thanks,

Angela

From: James Marshall <jmarshall@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Pebble mine technical meeting questions

Good morning,

E&E News has received notes from a technical meeting that took place over three days in March between EPA, USACE, AECOM and other cooperating agencies with the Pebble mine project. According to the notes, the groups met to discuss the Pebble Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement to prepare to advance the FEIS.

EPA, and other agencies, brought up many concerns with the PFEIS. Some of them have to do with water treatment viability, uncertain data from streams sampled for fish and wetland analysis, and compensatory mitigation. I'm writing a

story (my deadline is Wednesday at 11:30am eastern/7:30am AK) about some of those concerns but wanted to see if anything has changed since those meetings. Would you mind answering these questions?:

1. According to the notes, EPA said the **water treatment** plan isn't proven to be viable at the proposed Pebble scale. Asked if USACE was comfortable with moving forward with FEIS with this technical uncertainty, USACE said yes.
 - a. Has this been addressed and is EPA satisfied with it? Will FEIS evaluate whether changes to water treatment are possible within three years (the length of time water pond allows for storage)?
2. NPS and EPA had concerns about **which streams were sampled** or not sampled to do analysis for fish and wetlands. AECOM then said it hadn't yet determined if some streams were not sampled.
 - a. Has this question been addressed? Will FEIS include data showing exactly which streams were surveyed and an explanation of why others weren't, as EPA recommended?
3. Regarding compensatory **mitigation**, USACE said the plan in EIS would remain high level and more mitigation information would be in the record of decision. EPA expressed concern that the plan was too high level, a more detailed plan should be in the EIS, and EPA asked USACE why it wasn't getting public input on the mitigation plan.
 - a. Have these items been addressed and how? Is EPA satisfied with it?

Thank you for your help,
James Marshall
Reporter, E&E News
727-481-5437 (cell)